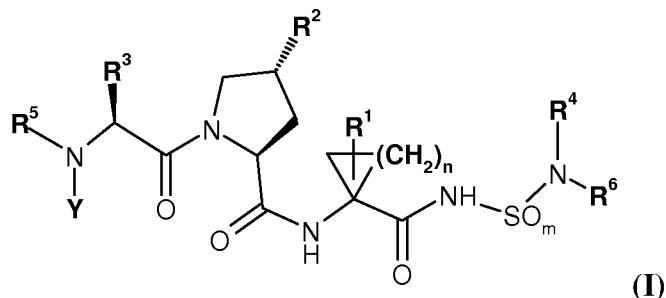


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula I:



(I)

wherein

**n** is 1 or 2;

**m** is 1 or 2;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl; H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, wherein each of said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -NH-R<sup>20</sup>, -O-R<sup>20</sup>, -S-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-R<sup>20</sup>, and -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein

X is (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkynyl, or (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R<sup>20</sup>** is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with **R<sup>200</sup>**; wherein

**R<sup>200</sup>** is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -OR<sup>201</sup>, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SOR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, -N(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>, and -CON(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl **and Het** is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>201</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, and

aryl, ~~-CO-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -CO-O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R**<sup>2000</sup>;

**R**<sup>202</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>2000</sup> in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, ~~-OR~~<sup>2001</sup>, ~~-SR~~<sup>2001</sup>, ~~-SOR~~<sup>2001</sup>, ~~-SO<sub>2</sub>R~~<sup>2001</sup>, cyano, ~~-N(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2001</sup>)~~, and **R**<sup>2003</sup>, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and ~~-O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~;

**R**<sup>2001</sup> in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, ~~-C(O)-R~~<sup>2003</sup>, ~~-C(O)O-R~~<sup>2003</sup>, ~~-CON(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2004</sup>)~~ and **R**<sup>2004</sup>;

**R**<sup>2002</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>2003</sup> in each case is independently selected from (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl; and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, wherein said (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R**<sup>2004</sup> in each case is independently selected from H and **R**<sup>2003</sup>;

**R**<sup>3</sup> is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl; or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl ~~or~~ (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one ~~or more~~ substituents substituent each independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, halogen, cyano, ~~-OR~~<sup>30</sup>, ~~-SR~~<sup>30</sup>, ~~-C(=O)OR~~<sup>30</sup>, ~~-C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, ~~-C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-NH<sub>2</sub>~~, ~~-NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, ~~-N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>~~, aryl, and aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, wherein **R**<sup>30</sup> is H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-;

**R**<sup>5</sup> is selected from **B**, **B-C(=O)-**, **B-O-C(=O)-**, **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-**; **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=S)-**, **B-SO<sub>2</sub>-** and **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-**; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally

substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;

- (iii) — aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (iv) — **Het** or **Het**(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl ;, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and
- (v) — (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

**R**<sup>51</sup> is selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

provided that B is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted when **R**<sup>5</sup> is **B**-O-C(=O)-;

**Y** is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms

each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

~~with the proviso that when:~~

~~R<sup>5</sup> is B-O-C(=O) or B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O), wherein~~

~~R<sup>51</sup> is H; and~~

~~B is selected from (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,~~

~~a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and~~

~~b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono- or di substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl; and~~

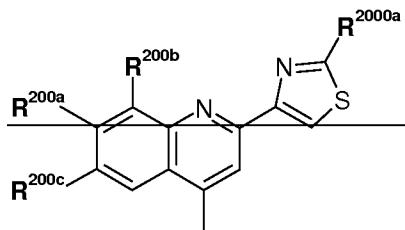
~~c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri substituted with halogen; and~~

~~d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4, 5, 6 or 7 membered, one (for the 4, 5, 6, or 7 membered) or two (for the 5, 6 or 7 membered) -CH<sub>2</sub>-groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by O to provide a heterocycle, such that the O atom is linked to the O-C(=O) or N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and~~

~~R<sup>2</sup> is O-R<sup>20</sup>;~~

~~then~~

~~R<sup>20</sup> cannot be~~



wherein

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  is H, halogen,  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{OH}$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{NH}_2$ ,  $\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$  or  
 $\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$ ;

$\mathbf{R}^{200b}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  are each independently halogen, cyano,  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{O}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  
 $\text{S}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $\text{SO}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ , or  $\text{SO}_2(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ , wherein each of said  
alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen  
atoms; and either  $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$  or  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  (but not both at the same time) may also  
be H; or

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$  or

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms  
to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one  
or two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups not being directly linked to each other may be  
replaced each independently by O or  $\text{NR}^a$  wherein  $\mathbf{R}^a$  is H or  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  
and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-  
substituted with  $(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2000a}$  is  $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})\text{COR}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})\text{COOR}^{2003}$ ,  $\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$ , or  
 $\text{N}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})\text{CON}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$ , wherein

$\mathbf{R}^{2002}$  is H or methyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$  or  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ , wherein said  
 $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$  and  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$  are optionally mono-, di-,  
or tri-substituted with  $(\text{C}_{1-3})\text{alkyl}$ ; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2004}$  is H or  $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ ;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each  
independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or  
aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to  
14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each  
independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated,  
unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

**2. (Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein

**n** is 1 or 2;

**m** is 1 or 2;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl; H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, wherein each of said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -NH-R<sup>20</sup>, -O-R<sup>20</sup>, -S-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO-R<sup>20</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>20</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>O-R<sup>20</sup>, and -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein

X is (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2-3</sub>)alkynyl, or (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and

**R<sup>20</sup>** is (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het**, wherein said (C<sub>6</sub> or C<sub>10</sub>)aryl or **Het** is optionally substituted with **R<sup>200</sup>**; wherein

**R<sup>200</sup>** is one to four substituents each independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo, -OR<sup>201</sup>, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SOR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, -N(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>, and -CON(R<sup>202</sup>)R<sup>201</sup>; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>201</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, and aryl, -CO-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -CO-O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>202</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R<sup>2000</sup>** in each case is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**, -OR<sup>2001</sup>, -SR<sup>2001</sup>, -SOR<sup>2001</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>2001</sup>, cyano, -N(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2001</sup>), and **R<sup>2003</sup>**, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R<sup>2001</sup>** in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, -C(O)-

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ ,  $-\text{CON}(\mathbf{R}^{2002})(\mathbf{R}^{2004})$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ ;

$\mathbf{R}^{2002}$  in each case is independently selected from H and  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ;

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$  in each case is independently selected from  $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ , and  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ ; and  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ , wherein said  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$  and  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$  are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from  $(\text{C}_{1-3})\text{alkyl}$ ; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2004}$  in each case is independently selected from H and  $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ ;

$\mathbf{R}^3$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$  or  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}-(\text{C}_{1-3})\text{alkyl}$ , each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(\text{C}_{2-6})\text{alkenyl}$ , halogen, cyano,  $-\text{OR}^{30}$ ,  $-\text{SR}^{30}$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OR}^{30}$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{NH}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{N}((\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl})_2$ , aryl, and  $\text{aryl}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{30}$  is H,  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , aryl, or  $\text{aryl}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ;

$\mathbf{R}^5$  is selected from  $\mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{B-C(=O)-}$ ,  $\mathbf{B-O-C(=O)-}$ ,  $\mathbf{B-N(R^{51})-C(=O)-}$ ;  $\mathbf{B-N(R^{51})-C(=S)-}$ ,  $\mathbf{B-SO_2}$  and  $\mathbf{B-N(R^{51})-SO_2}$ ; wherein  $\mathbf{B}$  is selected from:

- (i)  $(\text{C}_{1-10})\text{alkyl}$  optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -O( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -N(( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl and -C(=O)N(( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (ii)  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ , or  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}-(\text{C}_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ , each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from ( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -OH, -O( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -N(( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl and -C(=O)N(( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (iii) aryl or  $\text{aryl}(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from ( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl, -N(( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl and -C(=O)N(( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ )alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (iv) Het or  $\text{Het}-(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , each optionally substituted with one or more

~~substituents each selected independently from ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $-OH$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $-NH(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ,  $C(=O)NH_2$ ,  $C(=O)NH(C_{1-6})alkyl$  and  $C(=O)N((C_{1-6})alkyl)_2$ ; and~~

~~(v)  $(C_{2-6})alkenyl$ , or  $(C_{2-6})alkynyl$ , each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein~~

~~$R^{51}$  is selected from H and  $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ;~~

provided that B is not  $(C_{1-10})alkyl$  unsubstituted when  $R^5$  is  $B-O-C(=O)-$ ;

~~Y is H or  $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ;~~

~~$R^4$  and  $R^6$  are each independently selected from H,  $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $-O-(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl$ ,  $(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-$ , aryl, **Het**, and aryl- $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ;~~  
~~wherein said  $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $-O-(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl$ ,  $(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl-$ , aryl and aryl- $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ - are each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ , hydroxy, cyano,  $O-(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl$ ,  $-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ ,  $CO-NH_2$ ,  $CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl$ ,  $CO-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ , and  $-COOH$ , and  $-COO(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ; or~~

~~$R^4$  and  $R^6$  are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and each of said heterocycle and heteropolycycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1-6})alkyl$ , hydroxy, cyano,  $O-(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl$ ,  $-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ ,  $-CO-NH_2$ ,  $-CO-NH(C_{1-4})alkyl$ ,  $-CO-N((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ ,  $-COOH$ , and  $-COO(C_{1-6})alkyl$ ;~~

~~with the proviso that when:~~

~~$R^5$  is  $B-O-C(=O)$  or  $B-N(R^{51})-C(=O)$ , wherein~~

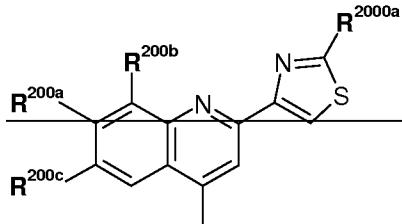
~~$R^{51}$  is H; and~~

~~B is selected from  $(C_{1-10})alkyl$ ,  $(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl$ , and  $(C_{3-7})cycloalkyl-(C_{1-4})alkyl$ ,~~

- a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with  $(C_{1-3})$ alkyl; and
- b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and  $O(C_{1-4})$ alkyl; and
- c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and
- d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4, 5, 6 or 7 membered, one (for the 4, 5, 6, or 7 membered) or two (for the 5, 6 or 7 membered)  $-CH_2-$  groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by  $O$  to provide a heterocycle, such that the  $O$  atom is linked to the  $O-C(=O)$  or  $N(R^{51})-C(=O)$  group via at least two carbon atoms; and  
 $R^2$  is  $O-R^{20}$ ;

then

$R^{20}$  cannot be



wherein

$R^{200a}$  is H, halogen,  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, OH,  $O(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $NH_2$ ,  $NH(C_{1-4})$ alkyl or  $N((C_{1-4})alkyl)_2$ ;

$R^{200b}$ ,  $R^{200e}$  are each independently halogen, cyano,  $(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $O(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $S(C_{1-4})$ alkyl,  $SO(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, or  $SO_2(C_{1-4})$ alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either  $R^{200b}$  or  $R^{200e}$  (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

$R^{200a}$  and  $R^{200b}$  or

$R^{200a}$  and  $R^{200e}$  may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms

~~to which they are linked, a 5 or 6 membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two  $\text{CH}_2$  groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by O or NR<sup>a</sup> wherein R<sup>a</sup> is H or (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or di-substituted with (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl; and~~

~~R<sup>2000a</sup> is R<sup>2003</sup>, N(R<sup>2002</sup>)COR<sup>2003</sup>, N(R<sup>2002</sup>)COOR<sup>2003</sup>, N(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2004</sup>), or N(R<sup>2002</sup>)CON(R<sup>2002</sup>)(R<sup>2004</sup>), wherein~~

~~R<sup>2002</sup> is H or methyl;~~

~~R<sup>2003</sup> is (C<sub>1-8</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, wherein said (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and~~

~~R<sup>2004</sup> is H or R<sup>2003</sup>;~~

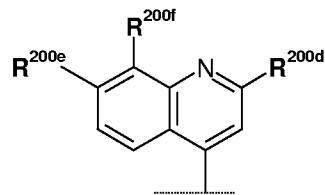
wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

3. **(Currently amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>5</sup> is selected from **B-C(=O)-**, **B-O-C(=O)-**, and **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-**; wherein **B** and **R<sup>51</sup>** are defined as in claim 1, provided that **B** is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted when R<sup>5</sup> is **B-O-C(=O)-**.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{51}$  is H and  $\mathbf{B}$  is selected from:
- (i)  $(\text{C}_{1-7})\text{alkyl}$  optionally substituted with one or two or three substituents each independently selected from fluoro, chloro, bromo, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy; or optionally substituted with  $-\text{COOCH}_3$ ;
  - (ii)  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ , or  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-methyl-}$ , each optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from methyl, ethyl, hydroxy, methoxy and ethoxy;
  - (iii) ~~benzyl; and~~
  - (iv) ~~Het, wherein Het comprises a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-membered heterocycle having one to four heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N, and S, which may be saturated or unsaturated or aromatic;~~
- provided that  $\mathbf{B}$  is not  $(\text{C}_{1-7})\text{alkyl}$  unsubstituted when  $\mathbf{R}^5$  is  $\mathbf{B}-\text{O}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$ .
5. **(Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $\mathbf{Y}$  is H.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^3$  is *tert*-butyl  ~~$(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$  or  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ , the  $(\text{C}_{1-8})\text{alkyl}$  being optionally substituted with hydroxy,  $(\text{C}_{4-6})\text{alkoxy}$  or  $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OR}^{30}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{30}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$  or aryl $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ .~~
7. **(Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^2$  is selected from  $-\text{O}-\mathbf{R}^{20}$ ,  $-\text{S}-\mathbf{R}^{20}$ , and  $-\text{O}-\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{R}^{20}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{20}$  and  $\mathbf{X}$  are defined as in claim 1.
8. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^2$  is  $-\text{O}-\mathbf{X}-\mathbf{R}^{20}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{X}$  is  $(\text{C}_3)\text{alkynyl}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{20}$  is  $(\text{C}_6$  or  $\text{C}_{10})\text{aryl}$ .

9. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^2$  is  $-\text{O}-\mathbf{R}^{20}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{20}$  is



wherein

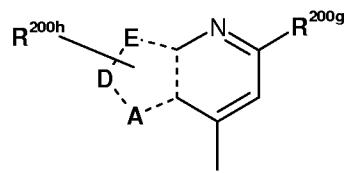
$\mathbf{R}^{200d}$  is  $-\text{OR}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ;

$\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  is H or  $-\text{OR}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ; and

$\mathbf{R}^{200f}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , halogen,  $-\text{SR}^{201}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\mathbf{R}^{201}$ , or  $-\text{OR}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$  optionally further substituted with  $(\text{C}_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$  or phenyl.

10. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 9 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{200d}$  is  $-\text{OR}^{201}$  wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is ethyl.

11. **(Original)** The compound according to claim 7 wherein  $\mathbf{R}^2$  is  $-\text{O}-\mathbf{R}^{20}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{20}$  is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

$\mathbf{R}^{200g}$  is H or  $-\text{OR}^{201}$ , wherein  $\mathbf{R}^{201}$  is  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$  or  $(\text{C}_{2-6})\text{alkenyl}$ ; and

$\mathbf{R}^{200h}$  is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano,  $(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$  and  $-\text{SO}_2-(\text{C}_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ; wherein each  $\mathbf{R}^{200h}$  is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom.

**12. (Previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **n** is 1.

**13. (Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein **R<sup>1</sup>** is  $(C_{2-6})\text{alkenyl}$  or  $(C_{2-6})\text{alkyl vinyl}$ .

**14. (Canceled)**

**15. (Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

- (i) **R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are each independently selected from H,  $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{O}-(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(C_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ ,  $(C_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-}(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$ , aryl and aryl- $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$ ; wherein said  $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{O}-(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(C_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl}$ ,  $(C_{3-7})\text{cycloalkyl-}(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$ , aryl and aryl- $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl-}$  are each optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , hydroxy, cyano,  $\text{O}-(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , and  $-\text{COOH}$ , and  $\text{COO}(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ; or
- (ii) **R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three additional heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen,  $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ , hydroxy, cyano,  $\text{O}-(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{NH}(C_{1-4})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{N}((C_{1-4})\text{alkyl})_2$ ,  $-\text{COOH}$ , and  $-\text{COO}(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ .

**16. (Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

- n** is 1 ~~or~~ 2;
- m** is 4 ~~or~~ 2;
- R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl  $H$ ,  $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(C_{2-6})\text{alkenyl}$ , or  $(C_{2-6})\text{alkynyl}$ , wherein said  $(C_{1-6})\text{alkyl}$ ,  $(C_{2-6})\text{alkenyl}$ , or  $(C_{2-6})\text{alkynyl}$  are optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is selected from  $\text{CH}_2\text{-R}^{20}$ ,  $\text{NH}\text{-R}^{20}$ ,  $-\text{O-R}^{20}$ ,  $-\text{S-R}^{20}$ ,  $-\text{SO-R}^{20}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{-R}^{20}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{O-R}^{20}$ ; and  $-\text{O-X-R}^{20}$ , wherein

**X** is ( $C_{2-3}$ )alkenyl, ( $C_{2-3}$ )alkynyl, or ( $C_{1-3}$ )alkyl; and

**R<sup>20</sup>** is ( $C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl or **Het**, wherein said ( $C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl or **Het** is optionally

mono-, di-, tri- or tetra-substituted with **R<sup>200</sup>**, wherein each **R<sup>200</sup>** is independently selected from H, halogen, cyano, ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, aryl-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, oxo, thioxo,  $-\text{OR}^{201}$ ,  $-\text{SR}^{201}$ ,  $-\text{SOR}^{201}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{201}$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{202})\text{R}^{201}$ , and  $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^{202})\text{R}^{201}$ ; wherein each of said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and aryl and **Het** is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>201</sup>** in each case is independently selected from H, ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, and aryl,  $-\text{CO-(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$  and  $-\text{CO-O-(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ , wherein each of said alkyl and aryl is optionally further substituted with **R<sup>2000</sup>**;

**R<sup>202</sup>** is H or ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl;

**R<sup>2000</sup>** is one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, aryl, **Het**,  $-\text{OR}^{2001}$ ,  $-\text{SR}^{2001}$ ,  $-\text{SOR}^{2001}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{2001}$ , cyano,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{2002})(\text{R}^{2001})$ , and **R<sup>2003</sup>**, wherein said aryl and **Het** are optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl and  $-\text{O-(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ ;

**R<sup>2001</sup>** in each case is independently selected from aryl, aryl-( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl-,  $-\text{C(O)-R}^{2003}$ ,  $-\text{C(O)O-R}^{2003}$ ,  $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^{2002})(\text{R}^{2004})$  and **R<sup>2004</sup>**;

**R<sup>2002</sup>** is H or ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl;

**R<sup>2003</sup>** is ( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl, and ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl; or ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, wherein said ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl and ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with ( $C_{1-3}$ )alkyl; and

**R<sup>2004</sup>** is H or **R<sup>2003</sup>**;

**R<sup>3</sup>** is ( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl or ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl ( $C_{1-3}$ )alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{2-6}$ )alkenyl, halogen, cyano,  $-\text{OR}^{30}$ ,  $-\text{SR}^{30}$ ,  $-\text{C(=O)OR}^{30}$ ,  $-\text{C(=O)NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{C(=O)NH(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ ,  $-\text{C(=O)N((C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl)}_2$ ,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{NH(C}_{1-6}\text{)alkyl}$ ,

~~-N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, aryl, and aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;~~ wherein **R**<sup>30</sup> is H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, aryl, or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>5</sup> is selected from **B**, **B-C(=O)-B-O-C(=O)-**, and **B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=O)-**;

~~**B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-C(=S), B-SO<sub>2</sub>, and B-N(R<sup>51</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>**~~; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (ii) (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (iii) aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;
- (iv) ~~Het or Het (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl~~, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; and
- (v) (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl, or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 3 halogens; and wherein

**R**<sup>51</sup> is selected from H and (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

provided that **B** is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted, when **R**<sup>5</sup> is **B-O-C(=O)-**;

**Y** is H or (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl, **Het**, and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-

are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

**R**<sup>4</sup> and **R**<sup>6</sup> are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a heteropolycycle, said heterocycle and heteropolycycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, -CO-NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -CO-N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

with the proviso that when:

**R**<sup>5</sup> is **B**—O—C(=O) or **B**—N(**R**<sup>51</sup>)—C(=O), wherein

**R**<sup>51</sup> is H; and

**B** is selected from (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, and (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl,

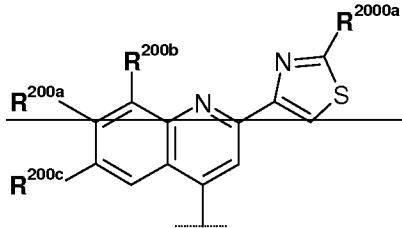
- a) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted with (C<sub>1-3</sub>)alkyl; and
- b) wherein said alkyl, cycloalkyl, and cycloalkyl-alkyl are optionally mono- or di-substituted with substituents selected from hydroxy and O-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl; and
- c) wherein each of said alkyl groups may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted with halogen; and

- d) wherein in each of said cycloalkyl groups being 4, 5, 6 or 7 membered, one (for the 4, 5, 6, or 7 membered) or two (for the 5, 6 or 7 membered) —CH<sub>2</sub>—groups not directly linked to each other may be replaced by O to provide a heterocycle, such that the O atom is linked to the O—C(=O) or —N(**R**<sup>51</sup>)—C(=O) group via at least two carbon atoms; and

**R**<sup>2</sup> is O—**R**<sup>20</sup>;

then

$\mathbf{R}^{20}$  cannot be



wherein

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  is H, halogen, ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, OH, O( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, NH<sub>2</sub>, NH( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl or N(( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl);

$\mathbf{R}^{200b}$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  are each independently halogen, cyano, ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, O( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, S( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, SO( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, or SO<sub>2</sub>( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, wherein each of said alkyl groups is optionally substituted with from one to three halogen atoms; and either  $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$  or  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  (but not both at the same time) may also be H; or

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{200b}$  or

$\mathbf{R}^{200a}$  and  $\mathbf{R}^{200e}$  may be covalently bonded to form, together with the two C atoms to which they are linked, a 5- or 6-membered carbocyclic ring wherein one or two CH<sub>2</sub> groups not being directly linked to each other may be replaced each independently by O or NR<sup>a</sup> wherein R<sup>a</sup> is H or ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, and wherein said carbo- or heterocyclic ring is optionally mono- or disubstituted with ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2000a}$  is  $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ , N( $\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ )COR<sup>2003</sup>, N( $\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ )COOR<sup>2003</sup>, N( $\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ )( $\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ ), or N( $\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ )CON( $\mathbf{R}^{2002}$ )( $\mathbf{R}^{2004}$ ), wherein

$\mathbf{R}^{2002}$  is H or methyl;

$\mathbf{R}^{2003}$  is ( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl, ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl or ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl, wherein said ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl and ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl ( $C_{1-4}$ )alkyl are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted with ( $C_{1-3}$ )alkyl; and

$\mathbf{R}^{2004}$  is H or  $\mathbf{R}^{2003}$ ;

wherein **Het** is defined as a 3- to 7-membered heterocycle having 1 to 4 heteroatoms each independently selected from O, N and S, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic, and which is optionally fused to at least one other cycle to form a 4- to 14-membered heteropolycycle having wherever possible 1 to 5 heteroatoms, each independently selected from O, N and S, said heteropolycycle being saturated, unsaturated or aromatic;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

**17. (Currently Amended)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

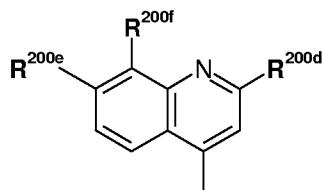
**R<sup>5</sup>** is selected from ~~B-C(=O)-B-O-C(=O)-~~, and ~~B-NH-C(=O)-~~; wherein **B** is selected from:

- (i) ~~(C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, halogen, -OC(=O)(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>,~~  
~~-C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
  - (ii) ~~(C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, or (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl-, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, halogen, -COOH, -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -O(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
  - (iii) ~~aryl or aryl(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
  - (iv) ~~**Het** or **Het** (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, each optionally substituted with one or more substituents each selected independently from (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH<sub>2</sub>, -C(=O)NH(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl and -C(=O)N((C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>;~~
- provided that **B** is not (C<sub>1-10</sub>)alkyl unsubstituted, when **R<sup>5</sup>** is **B-O-C(=O)-**;
- Y** is H;

**R<sup>3</sup>** is tert-butyl ( $C_{1-8}$ )alkyl or ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl, each of which are optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $OR^{30}$ , and  $C(=O)OR^{30}$ , wherein **R<sup>30</sup>** is H, ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, or aryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl;

**R<sup>2</sup>** is -O-X-R<sup>20</sup>, wherein X is ( $C_3$ )alkynyl and R<sup>20</sup> is ( $C_6$  or  $C_{10}$ )aryl; or

**R<sup>2</sup>** is -O-R<sup>20</sup> wherein R<sup>20</sup> is



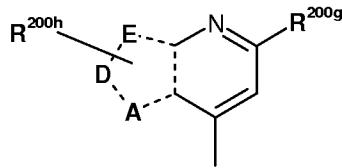
wherein

**R<sup>200d</sup>** is -OR<sup>201</sup>, wherein R<sup>201</sup> is ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl;

**R<sup>200e</sup>** is H or -OR<sup>201</sup>, wherein R<sup>201</sup> is ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl; and

**R<sup>200f</sup>** is ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, halogen, -SR<sup>201</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>201</sup>, or -OR<sup>201</sup>, wherein R<sup>201</sup> is ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl optionally further substituted with ( $C_{3-7}$ )cycloalkyl or phenyl;

or R<sup>20</sup> is



wherein

one of **A**, **D**, and **E** represents a S atom and the other two of **A**, **D**, and **E** represent C atoms;

---- represents a single bond between a C atom and an S atom, and represents a single bond or a double bond between two C atoms; provided that each C atom is bonded by one double bond;

**R<sup>200g</sup>** is H or -OR<sup>201</sup>, wherein R<sup>201</sup> is ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl or ( $C_{2-6}$ )alkenyl; and

**R<sup>200h</sup>** is one or two substituents each independently selected from H, cyano, ( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl and -SO<sub>2</sub>( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl; wherein each **R<sup>200h</sup>** is bonded to a C atom which would otherwise bear a hydrogen atom;

**R<sup>1</sup>** is ethyl or vinyl (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkenyl or (C<sub>2-6</sub>)alkyl;

**n** is 1;

**m** is 2; and

**R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are each independently selected from H, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-; wherein said (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl, (C<sub>3-7</sub>)cycloalkyl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl-, aryl and aryl-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl- are optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl; or

**R<sup>4</sup>** and **R<sup>6</sup>** are linked, together with the nitrogen to which they are bonded, to form a 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle, said heterocycle optionally containing from one to three further heteroatoms each independently selected from N, S and O, and said 3- to 7-membered monocyclic saturated or unsaturated heterocycle being optionally substituted with one to three substituents each independently selected from halogen, (C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, hydroxy, cyano, O-(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NH(C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1-4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, -COOH, and -COO(C<sub>1-6</sub>)alkyl;

or a diastereomer thereof or a salt thereof.

**18. (Previously presented)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

**19. (Original)** The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 18 additionally comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one other antiviral agent.

**20. (Withdrawn – Currently amended)** A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a hepatitis C viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an

anti-hepatitis C virally effective amount of a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising said compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent.

**21. – 22. (Canceled)**

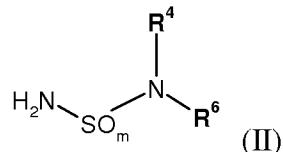
**23. (Withdrawn)** A method of inhibiting the replication of hepatitis C virus by exposing the virus to a hepatitis C viral NS3 protease inhibiting amount of the compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

**24. (Canceled)**

**25. (Previously Presented)** An article of manufacture comprising a composition effective to treat an HCV infection or to inhibit the NS3 protease of HCV; and packaging material comprising a label which indicates that the composition can be used to treat infection by the hepatitis C virus; wherein the composition comprises a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier medium or auxiliary agent .

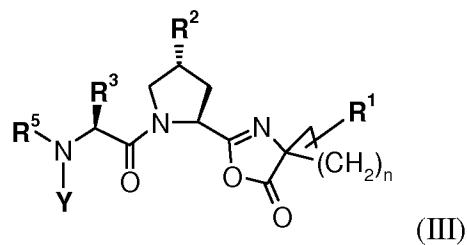
**26. (Previously Presented)** A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, comprising:

- a) reacting a compound of formula (II):



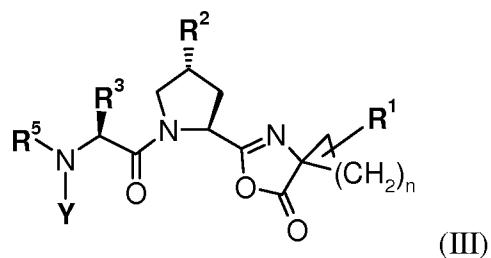
wherein **R<sup>4</sup>**, **R<sup>6</sup>** and **m** are defined as in claim 1, with a strong base so as to form the corresponding amide anion and

- b) reacting an azalactone of formula (III):



wherein  $\mathbf{R}^1$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^5$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  are defined as in claim 1, with the amide anion formed in step a).

**27. (Original)** An azalactone intermediate compound of formula (III):



wherein  $\mathbf{R}^1$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^3$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^5$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $\mathbf{n}$  are defined as in claim 1.

**28. (Canceled)**